

Applicants take this opportunity to acknowledge the indication that claims 3, 7, 10 and 18-20 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Drawing Objections

The Office Action asserts that the original disclosure does not support the showing of a cvt (continuously variable transmission) combined with a disk brake. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

The feature of a continuously variable transmission combined with a disk brake was recited in claim 34 of the original disclosure. As such, this feature cannot be considered new matter. Moreover, by previous Amendment, the specification was amended to provide support for this feature. As such, no new matter has been introduced into the disclosure of the application. Approval of the drawing corrections filed on August 1, 2002 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a), specifically stating that the features of claims 8, 11-12, 14, 22-23, 26-27 and 31-34 must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. This objection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus obviating the rejection of claim 8.

Applicants respectfully submit that the features of claims 11, 12, 14, 31, 32 and 33 are clearly illustrated in the drawings, as these features are referred to by reference number in the claims with respect to Figs. 1-5. Regarding the features of claims 22, 23, 26 and 27, a Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections was submitted on August 1, 2002, wherein the features of claims 22, 23, 26 and 27 have been shown. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide specific examples of features that he asserts are not illustrated in the drawings. Otherwise, approval of the Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections filed August 1, 2002 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action asserts that instant application does not contain a 5th figure, and that all references to Fig. 5 appear to have been removed prior to filing. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Attached herewith is a photocopy of a postcard receipt indicating that four sheets of drawings (1-5) were received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 9, 2000. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of originally submitted Fig. 5 is attached.

II. Objections To The Disclosure

The Office Action objects to the disclosure because the specification lacks section headings. This objection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that section headings in the specification are not required and are merely suggested for the Applicants' use under MPEP §608.01(a). As these section headings are merely suggested, there is no requirement that they be utilized. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the application because of alterations which have not been initialed and/or dated as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.52(c). This objection is respectfully traversed.

37 C.F.R. §1.52(c)(2) recites "after the signing of the Oath or Declaration in front of the application papers, amendments may only be made in the manner provided by §1.121." The Applicants submit that this Amendment is in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121 and therefore no additional Oath or Declaration is required. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 8, 11-12, 14, 22-23, 26-28 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus obviating the rejection of this claim. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

The Applicants submit that claim 11 is clearly supported in Fig. 2, where the piston 10 is illustrated as rotatably held within the cylinder space 38. It is further submitted that the subject matter of claim 12 is supported in the specification at page 5, lines 20-21, where it is stated "the screw 11 is rotatably and translatable held in a cylinder space 59 defined by insert ring 58 inserted in nut 14 of the screw mechanism 5." Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11 and 12 is respectfully requested.

It is further submitted that the subject matter of claims 22 and 23 is supported in the specification on page 3, lines 5-9, where it is stated "also, control means may be provided, said control means having input for a control signal, e.g., from a brake pedal, and being connected to the sensor for controlling the electric motor on the basis of the control signal and the signal from the sensor. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22 and 23 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action asserts that claim 31 is directed toward a continuously variable transmission actuated by the actuator of claim 1. The Applicants respectfully disagree. According to Applicants' record, claim 31 is directed to a "screw mechanism module for use in the actuator according to claim 1. However, claim 34 is directed to a continuously variable transmission displaceable by an actuator according to claim 1.

The Office Action asserts that a continuously variable transmission actuated by the actuator of claim 1 is not illustrated in the drawings or described in the specification in such a way that allows one skilled in the art to make or use the invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

The features of claim 34 are shown in corrected Fig. 1 of the Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections submitted August 1, 2002. Further, the specification has been amended

by previous Amendment at page 2, at lines 26 and 27 to disclose, "wherein the disk of each pulley are displaceable by means of an actuator according to this invention." It is submitted the one or ordinary skill in the art would readily know the conventional structure of a continuously variable transmission and would be able to attach the disks of a pulley to the actuator according to this invention without undue experimentation. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 8 as not being illustrated or described in an enabling manner. By this Amendment, claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus obviating the rejection of claim 8.

The Office Action rejects claim 28, stating that the feature "hard turning" is unclear. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the term "hard turning" is in fact a term of use in the art defining a method of processing or obtaining metal components. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize this term. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, asserting that the feature "one or two motors" is unclear. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, claim 15 has been amended to recite "wherein at least one of a first laterally shifted motor and a second laterally shifted motor are provided." As such, the Applicants submit that claim 15 is now definite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

IV. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 13, 21, 25 and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,788,341 to Penrod et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 7. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein the screw (11) engages the actuating member (10) through a bearing (12) capable of carrying at least one of an axial load and a radial load." As Penrod fails to disclose this feature and the Office Action admits that claim 7 contains allowable subject matter, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 9, 13, 21, 25 and 29-30 are dependent on allowable claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 4, 9, 13, 21, 25 and 29-30 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 24, 25, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 97/17553 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,850,457 to Taig. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 7. As the Office Action admits that claim 7 is allowable, newly amended independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 24, 25, 29 and 30 are dependent on allowable claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 24, 25, 29 and 30 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Penrod in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,012,556 to Blosch et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 is dependent on allowable claim 1 and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Penrod in view of Taig. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 16 and 17 are dependent on allowable claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Penrod. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 24 is dependent on allowable claim 1 and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Moreover, Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments raise no new issues requiring further search on the part of the Examiner, as the independent claim has merely been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from a canceled claim. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-34 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Patrick O. O'Leary
Registration No. 51,035

JAO:POO/djb

Attachment:

Appendix
Postcard Receipt (copy)
Figure 5

Date: February 10, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461

APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 7 and 8 are canceled.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (Twice Amended) Screw actuator, comprising a housing (17), a motor (7), an actuating member (10) and a screw mechanism (5) which provides a linear movement of the actuating member with respect to the housing in response to a rotational movement of the motor (7), which screw mechanism (5) comprises a screw (11), a nut (14) engaging each other by rolling elements (13), one of said screw (11) and nut (14) being rotatably supported with respect to the housing (17), and a reduction gear means (6), wherein the nut (14) is axially fixed with respect to the housing (17), and the screw (11) is rotatably supported with respect to the housing by means of the rolling elements (13) and wherein the screw (11) engages the actuating member (10) through a bearing (12) capable of carrying at least one of an axial load and a radial load.

10. (Twice Amended) Actuator according to claim 71, wherein the piston (10) is held non-rotatably by means of a groove and pin assembly, or by means of a ball/groove assembly.

11. (Twice Amended) Actuator according to claims 81, wherein the piston (10) is rotatably held within the cylinder space (38).

15. (Twice Amended) Actuator according to claim 1, wherein ~~one or two laterally shifted motors~~ at least one of a first laterally shifted motor and a second laterally shifted motor are provided.

PTO RECEIPT FOR FILING OF PAPERS

FEB 10 2003

U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

The following papers have been filed:

PCT Appln. Trans. Itr & Ck. #1113560 (\$1,112), PCT Request, Preliminary Amendment, 10 pp. spec., 34 clms, Abst., 4 shts of drwgs (1-5), Decl., IDS, PTO-1449 w/6 refs., and Inter. Natnl. Srch Rpt

Name of Applicant: Armin Herbert Emil August OLSCHEWSKI, Hendrikus Jan

Serial No.: U.S. National Stage of PCT/NL99/00303

Atty. File No.: 107775

Title (New Cases): SCREW ACTUATOR, AND BRAKE CALLIPER COMPRISING SUCH ACTUATOR

Sender's Initials: JAO:TJP/emb

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526 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 NOV 2000

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